

The 1894 Migration of *Charadrius dominicus* in Massachusetts. — The season of 1894 was unusually dry and warm, with entire absence of storms, moderate, pleasant weather prevailing throughout the entire migrating period, thus rendering it a matter of inclination, rather than necessity, that any American Golden Plovers (*Charadrius dominicus*) or Eskimo Curlews (*Numenius borealis*) should temporarily stop on the islands composing the group of which Nantucket is one. As a result but few Plovers did tarry, and no Eskimo Curlews. At Nantucket, August 18, 1894, the weather was clear with southwest winds; on the 19th nearly clear with a very light fog during a portion of the day, wind southwest. The first Golden Plovers were observed to-day passing over the eastern portion of the island, headed towards the south. Two flocks were seen, estimated to contain, respectively, fifty and thirty birds; none stopped.

There was an unusual large area of land burned over this season, more than I have ever known before, which should have proved particularly attractive to these birds as a resort. It was in consequence expected that many would stop which otherwise would have kept on. These hopes, however, were not realized. From the 19th to the 24th no birds were observed. During the night of the latter date, the wind having been westerly with some south in it at intervals, a few Plovers were heard passing over the town of Nantucket, but none stopped. Although out almost every day I have nothing to record until the 26th, when I saw four birds; wind southwest, calm, foggy outside the islands. As near as I can ascertain there are only about a dozen Plovers on the island and only four shot up to date.

August 29. Wind northeast to southeast, very light. A few Plovers passed over the town last night, and five were seen to-day. Also at sundown eight flocks were noted flying towards the west, the estimated numbers of which were seventy to twenty in a flock. None stopped on Nantucket. The weather was hazy; could not see off the shore.

September 3. The wind came from the northeast last evening about eight o'clock p. m.; at three o'clock in the morning it was blowing a strong breeze. I saw one flock of nine birds, and another of fifteen; about one hundred more were seen by other parties who were out. Only three birds were shot to-day, and seven on September 4.

Tuckernuck Island, September 5. About one hundred (estimated) Plovers landed last night; these are the first birds seen here this season. About twenty of them were shot up to September 10. Nantucket, September 6, I saw a flock of nine birds from which four were shot. September 7 was foggy early; three flocks of Plovers were seen towards the western part of the island; one contained nine birds, one seven, and one four, and a single bird. These, however, are not new birds; no new arrivals have been noted.

September 8, I drove all over the eastern burnt district. A gentle southeast breeze was blowing and the sky was overcast. Here I found several flocks of Plovers, one of twenty, from which I shot five, another of about forty from which I obtained ten.

September 9, drove over the same ground as yesterday and found a flock of six, from which I shot two; also saw a flock of about thirty; they were all the same birds seen yesterday.

September 11, I drove all over the eastern burnt district again, and saw the same old birds. I also saw some new arrivals, and there are now a hundred or more domiciled in this section, a good proportion of which are *young* birds, or 'Palebellies,' and which I think came on last night in a thick fog which prevailed in the late afternoon and early evening. The wind was strong northeast this morning. I shot eleven birds to-day, ten of which were *young* birds, the *first* noted or taken this season.

September 12, I again drove over the eastern ground; all the Plovers on the island being centered there, I obtained eight birds to-day, all young. Four or five flocks of Plovers were noted passing by the northern side of Nantucket about six o'clock p. m., flying towards the southwest.

September 13, I drove again over the eastern ground and saw the same birds, and obtained one. At sundown I saw the largest flock I have observed for years, about two hundred (estimated) birds. They had just come on and were flying about seventy yards high, headed towards the west. The latter half of the flock were much inclined to stop, but every time they lowered their flight to do so, the leading half would rise up and allure them on. I drove out early on the following morning, over the western ground, without finding them. I also made inquiry regarding them. They did not stop, the wind was southwest and west. I do not think any new birds landed on these islands between September 13 and October 2. On the latter date fifteen of the domiciled birds were shot, and on the first I shot another, a young bird, which was very fat.

As far as I know, and I have made constant inquiry, but eighty-seven Golden Plovers have been taken on these islands during the entire season up to October 2. No Eskimo Curlew, *Numenius borealis*, have been seen or taken. During the season I have made inquires of three of the largest game stalls in Faneuil Hall Market, Boston; the answer was always the same, none of them had received any Golden Plovers, and but a *single* Eskimo Curlew had been brought in. I have no direct information from Martha's Vineyard or Cape Cod, Mass. — GEO. H. MACKAY, *Nantucket, Mass.*

Unseasonable Nesting of the Ground Dove in Florida. — In a letter dated Tarpon Springs, Florida, Oct. 29, 1894, my correspondent Mr. W. S. Dickinson writes: "I find that the Ground Dove breeds in October, [collecting] in flocks from March until then. Last year I got two sets [of eggs] on the 19th of October, one on the 22d, all with small embryos; one set this year on the 15th [of October]."

This unsolicited testimony is of interest, not only confirming the previous record of the late breeding of the Ground Dove made by Mr. A. T. Wayne (*Orn. & Oöl.* 1887, p. 102), but seeming to prove that this conduct is not exceptional in southern Florida. That it is the rule in